IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph into the instant application as paragraph [0001] and renumber the following paragraphs accordingly:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation of co-pending application having U. S. Serial No. 09/387,418, filed August 31, 1999. Applicants claim the benefit of this application under 35 U.S.C. §120, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please substitute the following amended paragraph number 32 on page 10 for the original paragraph having the same paragraph number.

32. **Fig. 4 A-B**. Site-directed mutagenesis in region 1 and region 2 of Stat3 molecule. (A) Sequence alignment of Stat proteins in region 1 and region 2. Five shadowed residues in Stat3 were changed to alanine individually. Three shadowed residues in region 2 were changed to alanines simultaneously. The Sequence identifiers for the stat amino acid residues are as follows: stat 3 amino acid residues 134-154 (SEQ ID NO: 32); stat 3 amino acid residues 342-354 (SEQ ID NO: 33); stat 1 amino acid residues 134-154 (Seq ID NO: 34); stat 1 amino acid residues 342-354 (SEQ ID NO: 35); stat 2 amino acid residues 134-154 (SEQ ID NO: 36); stat 2 amino acid residues 342-354 (SEQ ID NO: 37); stat 4 amino acid residues 134-154 (SEQ ID NO: 38); stat 4 amino acid residues 342-354 (SEQ ID NO: 39); stat 5a amino acid residues 134-154 (SEQ ID NO: 40); stat 5a amino acid residues 342-354 (SEQ ID NO: 41; stat 6 amino acid residues 135-154 (SEQ ID NO: 42); stat 6 amino acid residues 342-354 (SEQ ID NO: 43). (B) Three Stat3 mutants showed decreased c-Jun binding property. L148A and V151A mutants (lanes 5 and 6) demonstrated a weaker c-Jun binding. TKR mutant (lane 12) in region 2 lost the c-Jun binding. WT, wild-type GST-Stat3 (130-358).